Payment of sugarcane dues

3441. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of sugar cane dues pending for payment to farmers against sugar mills during the last three years, sector-wise;

(b) the time since when the said dues are pending for payment;

(c) whether the farmers are giving up sugar cane cultivation as a result of the hardship being faced by them due to pending dues; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure payment dues at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The sector-wise and sugar season-wise status of outstanding cane price arrears, as on 15.01.2008, was as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sector	For the current sugar season 2007-08	For the last sugar season 2006-07	For sugar season 2005-06 & earlier	Total cane price arrears
Public	69.05	48.69	9.26	127.00
Cooperative	1251.39	152.80	69.96	1474.15
Private	1138.23	1017.39	165.38	2321.00
TOTAL:	2458.67	1218.88	244.60	3922.15

(c) and (d) No such reports have so far been received by the Central Government. However, the Central Government has taken a slew of measures, to help the sugar industry to clear the cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers, details of which are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to S.Q. 466 Part (c) and (d)].

Warehousing facilities to farmers of Maharashtra

3442. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state what possible steps Government are undertaking to provide proper warehousing facilities to Maharashtra farmers, so as, to avoid the post harvest losses of the produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Primarily, there are three Government Agencies *viz.* (i) Food Corporation of India (FCI), (ii) Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and (iii) State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) which are engaged in building storage/warehousing capacities for foodgrains, which provide scientific storage facilities to avoid post harvest losses of the produce. While the FCI does not provide the

warehousing facilities to the farmers, the CWC offers such facilities at warehouses at different locations in the country. CWC is operating 62 warehouses with the total storage capacity of 14.74 lakh MT, including hired capacity of 3.44 lakh MT (As on 1.2.2008) in the State of Maharashtra, where alongwith foodgrains storage, general and other notified commodities are stored. Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation (MSWC) is having a total storage capacity of 11.68 lakh MT (including hired capacity of 0.61 lakh MT) at 167 different rural and urban centres to provide proper warehousing facilities to farmers to avoid the post harvest losses of produce. MSWC keeps 25% storage space reserved for storage of the foodgrain of farmers to avoid post harvest losses and to preserve the marketable surplus of farmers till the desirable price returns. The MSWC is also giving rebate of 35% to the farmers in the storage charges of the commodities stored by them, besides giving a rebate of 50% to SC/ST farmers in the State.

Allocation of rice to Chhattisgarh

†3443. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total rice allocated to Chhattisgarh State by the Central Government in year 2006-07 for distribution under Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the quantity of rice to be allocated to Chhattisgarh in year 2007-08 is far less than the earlier one; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of the allocation of rice for the State of Chhattisgarh during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

(In lakh tons)

Commodity	2006-07	2007-08
Rice	14.80	7.74

(c) While the allocations of foodgrains for accepted numbers of AAY and BPL families are made @ 35 kg. per family per month, the allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Therefore, keeping in view the low procurement of rice, the allocation of rice for the APL category was rationalized for 2007-08, w.e.f. April, 2007, for all the States/UTs, including Chhattisgarh, on the basis of offtake during previous 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Rise in prices of Edible Oils

†3444. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi